

Church News

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and two young men received on their confession of faith in Christ.

Bethany Church: Acting under the last Synod's plan to have a protracted meeting in each church in the Synod this year, a meeting was begun here on the last Sunday in March. The Rev. C. E. Paxton assisted the pastor, the Rev. George F. Bell. The meeting continued for eight days and nineteen persons publicly confessed their faith in Christ. On the last day of the meeting thirteen of these were received into the church and at least three more are expected later, three having gone to other churches. There were also six baptisms of those received, and the number of men and boys, thirteen, was an unusually large proportion.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Davidson: The meeting of the officers of the Presbyterian church—elders and deacons—at which the financial report was read, was held last Wednesday. The report is a very fine one, showing contributions to local and beneficent causes of the Church of nearly \$4,500, an average of about \$20 per member for the ecclesiastical year ending March 31. The roll shows a membership of 281, but between fifty and sixty of these names are those of non-resident members.

Albemarle Presbytery: A meeting was closed at Fountain, in Albemarle Presbytery, April 1, which had been going on since March 19. The pastor, Rev. H. F. Morton, was assisted by Rev. A. J. Crane, the superintendent of Home Missions and evangelist of Albemarle Presbytery. The church was greatly revived and practically every Christian in town reconsecrated themselves to the work of the Master. Twelve were added to the church as a result of the meeting and several others declared their purpose to unite at a later date. Brother Morton is doing a fine work in Pitt county, of which he is the evangelist. A new brick church is soon to be erected at Farmville, one of the churches of his field, and one of the fastest growing towns in eastern North Carolina. There is great work to be done all over this part of the State. The material development is perfectly marvelous, but our church is largely unknown in large sections of it. The people receive us gladly everywhere we go. God has richly blessed the labors of the superintendent since he came to this Presbytery in January. We thank God and take courage to undertake greater things. Brethren pray for us.

A. J. Crane.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

Columbia: On April 1 fifty-eight new members were received into the First church, of which Rev. A. W. Blackwood is pastor.

Ramah Church: I had the privilege of preaching four days at this church. I have frequently visited this place of worship and always found it a place of blessing. They have a neat, attractive building, nicely furnished for a country church. It is truly a joy to preach when you see every seat filled with earnest worshippers. They have organized a Sabbath-school. Mr. Yandle is now preaching for them. The young folks take to him for his live preaching and good music.

James Russell.

Kershaw: I have just received a letter from the clerk of the session of this church saying that last Sabbath night seventeen had joined by profession of faith. I hope there are yet bright days in store for this church and congregation.

James Russell.

TEXAS.

Dallas: The quarterly communion of the First Presbyterian church was observed on the first Sunday of April. A large body of communicants were present. Forty-one were given public welcome—eleven on profession and thirty by letter. The Rev. William M. Anderson, Jr., the associate pastor, was assisted by his father, Dr. William M. Anderson. This is the first communion at which Dr. Anderson had been present since his illness last September. Four additional members were received after service. Dr. Anderson has been recuperating at Mineral Wells, Tloga Springs, and recently returned from a two months' stay at San Antonio.

Itasco: We received two members by letter Sunday into the church.

S. Addison McElroy.

Paris Presbytery: Remember your Presbyterian loyalty and come to Presbytery for a change! It meets in the First church of Greenville, Texas, April 24, 1917. The annual laymen's conference is held in conjunction with it on April 25—interesting, instructive, inspiring.

If you are an elder, you need both. Both need you. If you are a deacon or other laymen, you need the laymen's conference and it needs you. Be sure your church is represented. The feast will be ready; don't let anything keep you from enjoying it.

This is an official notification of the change in date of Presbytery from April 3 to April 24, at Greenville, Texas.

T. O. Perrin, Moderator.

WEST VIRGINIA.

Elkins: A series of special services has just closed at the Davis Memorial church, conducted by the minister, Dr. Frederick H. Barron. The services continued through two weeks and were followed by the quarterly communion Sunday morning, April 1. There were thirty additions to the church, attributed largely to these pre-communion services. The Assembly's evangelist, Dr. Thacker, was engaged to conduct the services in this church in January, but the appearance of infantile paralysis in town at that time closed the churches to such services. The meetings were conducted with the assistance of a large choir led by Mrs. J. A. Arbuckle, the director of the regular church choir. This choir was greatly assisted by volunteers from other churches in the city.

Throughout the two weeks the meetings were well attended. The largest congregation ever assembled for communion services was present Sunday morning. The every-member canvass campaign, under the able leadership of Mr. A. E. Dann, has been a great success this year. Mr. Dann made his preparations for this canvass in a most careful manner and not a single detail was neglected. He began this work in December and when the canvass was made the last Sunday in March there were sixty or seventy volunteers to do the work. It was only a matter of two hours when the reports were made showing that the canvass was a marked success. Mr. Dann is going to continue his plans through the year for social and religious purposes. The church is very fortunate in his leadership.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

Rev. R. E. Fultz from Mt. Solon to Mitchells, Va.

A LIVING REASON FOR A MISSION SCHOOL.

By R. L. Wharton.

Three years ago there climbed up on the window of the Cardenas Mission school one day a little street urchin, whose appearance was as un-

prepossessing as anything could be. Over a tousled head and a grimy face he wore an old slouch hat many sizes too large for him, while an equally dirty body was partly concealed by clothes that had served their day for some adult member of his family. His purpose there was to make faces at the pupils and the teacher or in some other way interfere with the classes. He was driven away kindly, but the next day and the next and the next he returned, until finally the teacher paid no further attention to him and allowed him to stand and stare as he might wish. Little by little a change was seen in his manner. Instead of making faces he became interested in the work until one day the teacher noted that, while clinging to the window bar with one arm, he was painfully copying in an old notebook the work on the blackboard. This continued until the close of the spring session. Every day the boy was there in his unkept condition, with the stub of a pencil and a notebook clinging to the window bars and copying English, arithmetic and everything else placed upon the blackboard. The session closed and the teachers supposed they had seen the last of the boy, but in September when the school opened anew scarcely had the eight o'clock bell called the school to work upon the first day when the same dirty face bobbed up in the window and at once the notebook and stub of a pencil were in evidence ready for work.

Miss Craig had become interested in the boy by this time, so much so that she called him into the office and asked him if he would like to come to school. He expressed a very earnest desire to do so, and after an interview with his father the boy was admitted for a month upon trial, with the express understanding that if there was the slightest disorder or disrespect upon his part he would have to leave immediately. The very first day showed that he was there for business. While some of the children laughed at his appearance he attended strictly to his work and very soon won the respect of his fellow-students and the absolute confidence of his teachers.

After three years in school he has quietly assumed or been given a position of leadership among the three hundred pupils of the school, and the teachers probably look to him today more than to any other student for a ready, hearty and intelligent response to every appeal made to the student body. From the school he has gone to the Westminster League, from the League to the Sunday-school, and on into the choir, where his clear, strong voice has become a great help to the music of the church, and, best of all, in a recent meeting when an opportunity to confess Christ was given one of the first to present himself was this same promising young student. As I looked at him I thought I could understand Miss Craig's feelings when she said: "If the Lord gives me Enrique's soul I think my work in Cuba will have been worth while." Such is the work of the mission school, laying foundations, moulding character, pushing aside many of the evil tendencies which otherwise would become second nature to the youthful mind, and turning the thoughts and hearts of the young towards and into channels of righteousness. Truly it may be considered the strong right arm of God's Church.

Calbarien, Cuba.

HOME MISSION RECEIPTS.

The books were promptly closed and balanced and the result brought immense relief to us in the strain under which we have labored, and fills us with profound gratitude for the

gracious blessing of God on the year's work.

Our receipts broke all records, amounting to \$193,363.48, which was an increase of \$16,982.03 over the previous year, showing also a gain of \$25,797.05 in two years, practically all from living donors, as we have received only very small legacies in several years. The increase for the year is as follows:

From churches.....	\$15,089.70
From Sabbath-schools....	2,169.21
From societies	3,464.15
From evangelistic collections	4,347.74

There was a decrease of \$7,127.62 from miscellaneous and individuals.

This generous response of the Church enables us to reduce slightly the debt incurred the first year of the European war, and would have more than wiped it out had it not been for "specials" named by the donors themselves for objects not included in our budget, and for emergency cases which could not be anticipated. It is gratifying, however, that for two years we have more than met obligations and are gradually ridding ourselves of debt.

The chief ground of thankfulness is not our substantial financial gain, but the splendid returns from our investments. The reports of the home missionaries show 5,624 additions to the Church on profession of faith, a gain of 22 per cent over the last reports. If the same rate of increase extends to the whole Church, the statistical reports to the next General Assembly will show 25,000 additions on profession of faith.

In the name of the Executive Committee we sincerely thank the pastors, sessions and friends whose kind co-operation has contributed so materially to the success of the work.

S. L. Morris, Secretary.

A BETTER PLAN.

By Rev. W. H. Miley, D. D.

We hear a great deal about wonderful meetings being held by Billy Sunday and other great evangelists, where whole cities are being stirred in their campaigns. We have no criticism to make of these great men. We believe God is using them for a great work, and hope He will use them for a still greater. But the churches in many places are finding that simultaneous meetings is a better plan. The Evangelistic Committee of the Church Federation of Indianapolis, where the pastors did their own preaching, has made the following report:

"A simultaneous evangelistic campaign has been conducted in Indianapolis under the auspices of the Church Federation for three consecutive years, adding to the membership of the churches 3,500 the first year, 7,000 the second, and 8,000 last year. The success of this movement has attracted the attention of many other cities where it has been introduced. The pastors of Indianapolis are enthusiastic for the movement and are earnestly working together this year for the winning of 10,000 persons to the Protestant churches and for the development of a stronger Christianity for the city."

This plan has also been successfully worked in Cleveland, St. Louis, Louisville, Memphis, Galveston, and other cities. After the first campaign in Memphis, in which only the Presbyterian churches engaged, a prominent layman of another church said: "Memphis is in the throes of a great revival, and you Presbyterians started it." And one of our leading ministers said: "Never before did Christianity, and especially Presbyterians,

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